



Introduction

This passage breaks down nicely into three different sections.

1. God instructs Moses to build a tabernacle (25–31)
2. The people reject God's plan but God relents (32–34)
3. God dwells among the people in the tabernacle (35–40)

I. God instructs Moses to build a tabernacle (25-31)

(a) God reveals his intentions to live among his people.

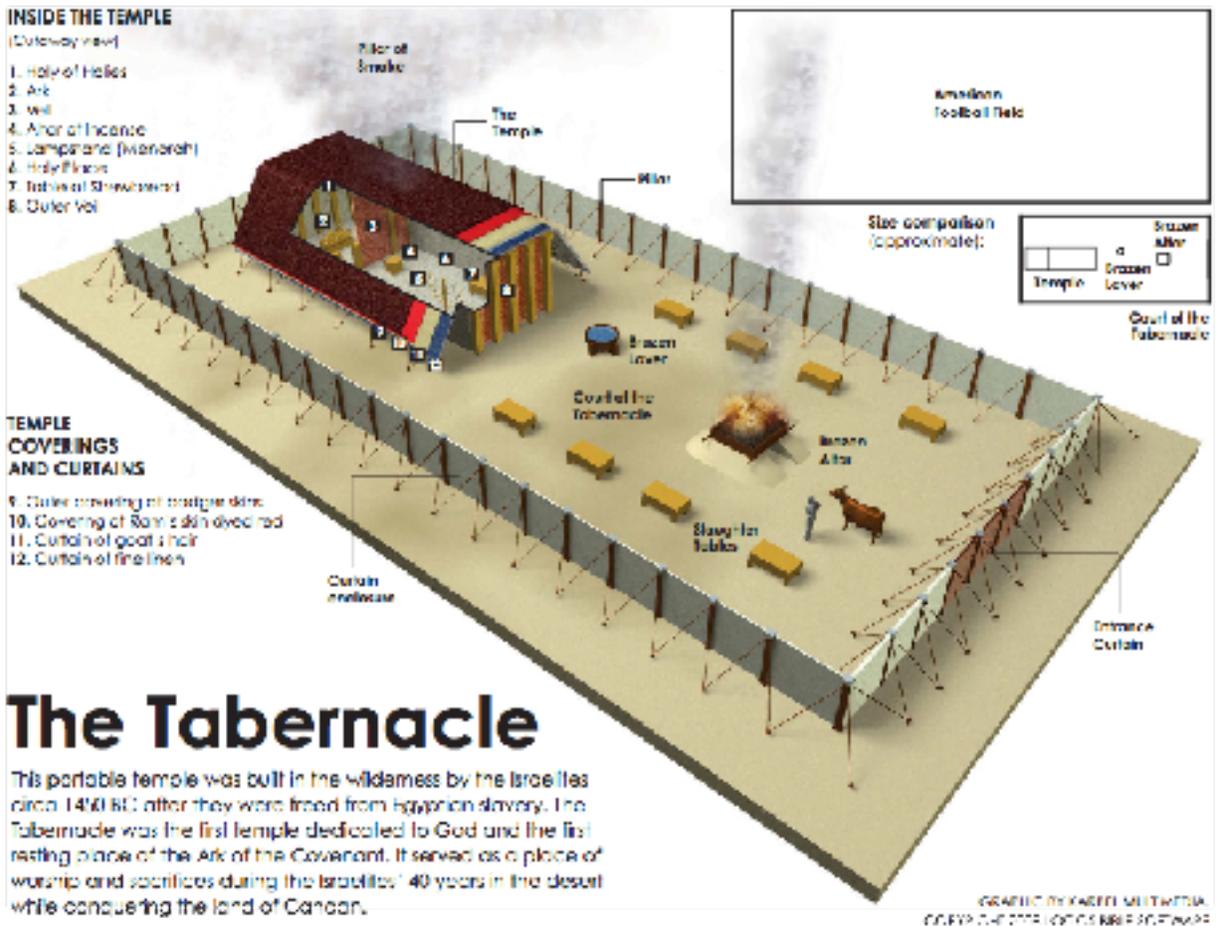
- Exodus 25:8–9 And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst. Exactly as I show you concerning the pattern of the tabernacle, and of all its furniture, so you shall make it.

(b) The “pattern of the tabernacle” symbolizes the eternal throne of Yahweh among his people.

1. What is the “pattern of the tabernacle”?
 - A type is simply someone or something God has specifically designed to correspond to and predictively prefigure Christ and his coming kingdom.¹
 - **Hebrews 9:24:** For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, *which are copies of the true things*, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf.
2. Moreover, the center of the tabernacle symbolizes this reality of the eternal throne of Yahweh among his people.

¹ Gentry and Wellum, *Kingdom Through Covenant*, 103.

(c) The tabernacle liturgy is rich in devotion, beauty, heart-felt worship, and the presence of God.



1. Tabernacle worship is rich in devotion.²

2. Tabernacle worship is rich in beauty.

- Beauty is emphasized. The priests' garments were made for "glory and for beauty" (28:3,40). "Blue, purple, and sacred thread" are specifically and repeatedly emphasized (25:4; 26:31; 28:5). Everything was to be constructed skillfully (28:3).

² Bruce K. Waltke, *An Old Testament Theology*, 453–457.



3. Tabernacle worship is rich in heart-felt worship.

4. Tabernacle worship is rich in the presence of God.

- Exodus 29:42-46 "It shall be a regular burnt offering throughout your generations at the entrance of the tent of meeting before the Lord, where I will meet with you, to speak to you there. There I will meet with the people of Israel, and it shall be sanctified by my glory. I will consecrate the tent of meeting and the altar. Aaron also and his sons I will consecrate to serve me as priests. I will dwell among the people of Israel and will be their God. And they shall know that I am the Lord their God, who brought them out of the land of Egypt that I might dwell among them. I am the Lord their God."

(d) God gives Moses two tablets to place in the Ark of the Covenant.

- Exodus 31:18 "And he gave to Moses, when he had finished speaking with him on Mount Sinai, the two tablets of the testimony, tablets of stone, written with the finger of God."

II. The people reject God's plan but God has mercy (32-34)

- This whole section again asks the question: How can the holy God dwell among a sinful people? How is this going to work out?

(a) The people reject God's plan.

(b) Moses appeals to God for mercy,



(c) God promises to be merciful.

- Exodus 34:6–7 The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, “The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation.”

III. God dwells among the people in the tabernacle (35-40)

(a) Moses instructs tells the people about the tabernacle worship.

(b) The tabernacle is constructed.

- Exodus 39:42–43 “According to all that the Lord had commanded Moses, so the people of Israel had done all the work. And Moses saw all the work, and behold, they had done it; as the Lord had commanded, so had they done it. Then Moses blessed them.”

(c) God descends to dwell among his people in the tabernacle.

- Exodus 40:34–38 “Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled on it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. Throughout all their journeys, whenever the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the people of Israel would set out. But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not set out till the day that it was taken up. For the cloud of the Lord was on the tabernacle by day, and fire was in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel throughout all their journeys.”



Conclusion

A few typological application points.

- A type is simply someone or something God has specifically designed to correspond to and predictively prefigure Christ and his coming kingdom.³

1. **Jesus is the true and better Deliverer and Law-giver.**

2. **Jesus dwells with his people and unveils the Father's glory.**

- John 1:14 "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."

3. **Jesus and the Father send the Holy Spirit to indwell believers and abide with the church.**

(a) Christ is the true Temple, in whom all believers find salvation and fellowship with God (John 2:20).

(b) Believers are temples of the Holy Spirit, being indwell by him (1 Cor. 6:19; 1:13-14).

(c) Local Churches are temples of the Holy Spirit, in which God makes his dwelling place on the earth (Eph. 2:22; 1 Cor. 3:16).

³ Gentry and Wellum, *Kingdom Through Covenant*, 103.